

CUSTOMER NO. 00270

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PTO/SB/21 (02-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	10/772,916
Filing Date	02/05/2004
First Named Inventor	Fumiaki Oba et al.
Art Unit	3632
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	TWA97USA

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached | <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> After Final | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation | <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | | |

Remarks

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENTFirm or Individual name
George A. Smith, Jr.

Signature

Date

8/5/04

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

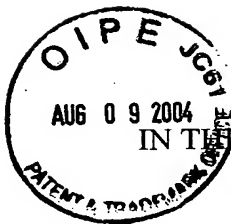
Typed or printed name
George A. Smith, Jr.

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Date
8/5/04

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CUSTOMER NO. 00270

TWA97USA

In re the Application of)	
)	Examiner:
Fumiaki Oba et al.)	
)	Group Art Unit: 3632
Serial No. 10/772,916)	
)	
Filed: 02/05/2004)	
)	
For: PARTS RETAINING)	
PANEL AND METHOD)	
OF MOUNTING AND)	
SECURING PARTS)	

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

We enclose form PTO/SB/08A and copies of the documents identified therein. A copy of the European search report in which the documents were cited is also enclosed.

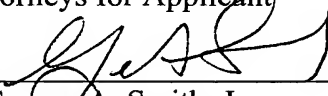
The French application, published under publication number 2,381,666, depicts a scheme for stacking of articles.

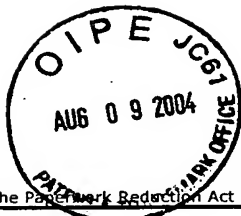
German laid-open application DE196 22 122 describes a transporting and assembly device for traction components in an internal combustion engine having a holding element (1) with at least two elements (2,4) secured in a seating (10,15). The seating of the elements is with at least a sprung elastic boss (11,17) on each grip (13) of the holding element. The grip for stripping the holding piece from the element can be seen. The holding element may be seen with an end face with openings (14,20) for the seats. An opposite facing end grip may have a handle on it.

German laid-open application DE 40 25 126 describes the assembling of a camshaft drive to an engine block by clipping pre-positioned parts in a cage. The components (2a to 2e) to be assembled, e.g. the pulleys, timing belt etc. of a camshaft drive, are located in correct relationship by fingers (4) which are formed as open sided clips engaging a diameter of the components. The cage is offered up to the face of the engine, and the individual components secured in place. The cage can then be slid out in a given direction (5).

In robotic assembly, the components may be stored in correct relationship in a special rack and transferred to the cage for assembly by insertion of the cage in the opposite direction. The invention is said to provide an engine manufacturer. with higher productivity and reduced cost of assembly.

Respectfully submitted,
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/772,916
				Filing Date	02/05/04
				First Named Inventor	Fumiaki Oba et al.
				Group Art Unit	3632
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	TWA97USA

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US 4,770,399	09/13/1988	P. Sosson et al.	
		US 6,237,207	05/29/2001	Hans-Joachim Vom Stein	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		FR 2 381 666	09/22/1978	L. Ateliers		
		DE 196 22 122	12/04/1997	W. Schaeffler		
		DE 40 25 126	02/13/1992	Bayerische Motoren Werke		
		EP 0 725 213	08/07/1996	Contitech Antriebssysteme GmbH		
		GB 1249871	10/13/1971	J. Greig		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/772,916
				Filing Date	02/05/04
				First Named Inventor	Fumiaki Oba et al.
				Group Art Unit	3632
				Examiner Name	
				Attorney Docket Number	TWA97USA
Sheet	2	of	2		

NONPATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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